Purchase of Residential Plots in Himachal Pradesh

*287. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government employees are not allowed to purchase residential plots in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would contemplate a policy decision allowing the Central Government employees to purchase residential plots in Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) According to information received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972 provides that non-agriculturists cannot purchase land without the permission of the State Government for the prescribed purpose. The word agriculturist has been defined under section 2 of the said Act as a person who cultivates land personally in an estate situated in Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, a Central Government employee, who is an agriculturist under the provisions of the Act, can purchase land in his name. However, if he is not an agriculturist, he can purchase land in Himachal Pradesh only with the prior permission of the State Government. Besides, a non-agriculturist can purchase land/built up house from the Himachal Pradesh State Housing Board and Development Authority without the permission of the State Government. A non-agriculturist can also purchase land within the Municipal areas without permission in case he was residing in Himachal Pradesh on the commencement of the Act, i.e., 21.2.1974.

Textile Mills in Meghalaya

*288. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills in public and co-operative sector, separately in the state of Meghalaya as on 31st January, 2000;

(b) the number of workers working in these mills, sector-wise;

(c) the details of facilities i.e. wages, education, health, housing provided by the mills to the workers; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government to ensure uninterrupted availability of these facilities at reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) As per available information, there is no textile mill in public and co-operative sector in the State of Meghalaya as on 31.1.2000.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Change in policy for captive power producers

*289. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any changes in its policy towards captive power producers;

(b) if so, the details of the changes made therein; and

(c) how it is going to affect the overall availability of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government of India, through a circular letter dated October 9, 1995, has advised the State Governments/State Electricity Boards to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which allows captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

Proposal to establish an integrated MoD

290. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish an integrated Ministry of Defence, incorporating the necessary components of the Defence services within it;

(b) if so, what is the present position of the process; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not progressing it, contrary to statements made by the Minister earlier, as reported in the media?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Certain proposals including the recommendations of the Kargil Review